

Saintly Notes

Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Asia (November 1)

Cosmas and Damian were unmercenaries and miracle-workers. They were brothers both in the flesh and in the spirit, born somewhere in Asia Minor of a pagan father and a Christian mother.

After their father's death, their mother Theodotia devoted all her time and effort to educating her sons and raising them as true Christians. God helped her, and her sons matured as sweet fruit and luminaries of the world. They were learned in the art of medicine and ministered to the sick without payment, not so much with medicine as by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They were called “unmercenary physicians,” that is, unpaid physicians, for they healed freely and thus fulfilled the commandment of Christ: *Freely ye have received, freely give* (Matthew 10:8).

So careful were they in healing men free of charge that Cosmas became very angry with his brother Damian because he accepted three eggs from a woman, Palladia, and ordered that he not be buried alongside his brother Damian after his death. In fact, St. Damian did not accept these three eggs as a reward for healing the ailing Palladia, but rather because she adjured him in the name of the Most-holy Trinity to accept these three eggs. Nevertheless, after their death in the town of Fereman, they were buried together according to a revelation from God.

The holy brothers were great miracle-workers both during their life and after their death. A snake crawled through the mouth and into the stomach of a certain farm laborer during his sleep, and the unfortunate man would have died in the greatest pain had he not, in the last moment, invoked the help of Saints Cosmas and Damian. Thus, the Lord glorified forever the miracle-working of those who glorified Him on earth by their faith, purity and mercy.

(The Prologue from Ochrid, Birmingham, 1985, Lazarica Press)

Holy Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian of Asia

November 1, 2009



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All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

November 1, 2009

The Saints Whom We Remember Today

Theodotia, the Unmercenaries' mother;
Venerable-martyr James and his disciples James the deacon and Dionysios of
Prodromou Skete on Athos; Venerable David

This Week's Schedule

Today: 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy; 11:30a
Ground Breaking; 12:30p Reception (Parish Hall)
Monday: Church Office Closed
Wednesday: 9:15a 3rd Hour Prayers; 10:00a Baklawa baking; 6:30p Vespers
Friday: 9:00a Baklawa baking
Saturday: 10:00a Divine Liturgy for St. Raphael of Brooklyn; 1:30p
Baptism (Miriam Jones); 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

Third Antiphon

Troparion of the Resurrection
Tone 4

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation and proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship . . . Alleluia.

Troparion

for the Resurrection—Tone 4

See above.

Troparion

for Sts. Cosmas and Damian
of Asia—Tone 4

O ye silver-hating, wonder-working saints,
Cosmas and Damian, visit our sicknesses.
Freely ye received, freely give unto us.

Troparion

of All Saints—Tone 4

As with fine porphyry and royal purple Thy Church has been adorned with Thy martyr's blood shed throughout all the world. She cries to Thee, O Christ God, send down Thy bounties on Thy people, grant peace to Thy habitation and great mercy to our souls.

Kontakion

for Ordinary Sundays—Tone 2

O Protection of Christians that is not put to shame, unchanging Mediation before the Creator, despise not the voice of the sinners' prayer, but in that thou art good, come quickly to help us who call upon thee in faith. Make speed to intercede and make haste to supplicate, O Theotokos, who dost ever protect those that honor thee.

The Trisagion

Holy God . . . (Special for Hierarchical Liturgy)

Scripture

for today and next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: Heb. 2:2–10

Gospel: Luke 8:41–56

Megalynarion—Tone 8

It is truly meet and right . . .

Communion Hymn—Tone 8

Praise the Lord . . . Alleluia.

Post-Communion Hymn

We have seen the true light . . .

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Ethan Haynes, Rim Gibrealfa, John Pridgen,
Jonah Sieck, Michael Fogg, Justin Fogg.

Special Attention

- **Annual Meeting Date.** Our annual voters' meeting will be held on November 15th following the Divine Liturgy. Please all voters need to attend. Building updates will be presented as well as reports for the year. The 2010 budget will be presented and voted on. Two new

members of the Parish Council will be voted into office. The meeting will last no longer than one hour. We need all voters to be in attendance.

- **Annual Report.** The annual report was mailed this past week to all voting members of the parish. Please read each report carefully, so that at the annual meeting on Nov. 15th we will be able to approve all reports with one vote after a short period of time that will be reserved for questions. The remainder of the annual meeting will be used for voting and for information on our building project.
- **Many Years and Welcome to our Bishop and Chief Priest!!!** Today we are very blessed to have our Bishop Antoun with us. In addition to the Hierarchical Liturgy, Saidna will be officiating at the ground breaking service this morning which will be followed by a reception in the parish hall.
- **Ladies of All Saints.** Don't forget we will be baking Wed. Nov 4 9:00 after we attend Third Hour Prayers. Please, remember to bring your brown bag lunch and join in making this pastry. Hope to have a nice turnout. Thank you, *Mary Elizabeth*
- **Special Ground Breaking Offering.** We will be accepting special donations to our building fund this morning as a ground breaking offering. Those who wish to participate will find a box so labeled in the Narthex and in the parish hall following the groundbreaking. This offering is a special one-time offering and should not to be confused with your regular giving to the building fund or the general operating fund. An insert in the bulletin and an envelope have been provided for your convenience. (please mark the envelope and your check "ground breaking").



Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenon:

In the saints that are in His earth hath the Lord been wondrous.

I beheld the Lord ever before me.

†Epistle: 1 Cor. 12:27—13:8 (RSV)

Brethren, you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

†Gospel: Luke 16:19–31 (RSV)

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores,

who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

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A Word from Our Fathers

“God loves man very much; He knows very well the problems of each one of us, and wishes to help us before we ask Him to do so. Since God is omnipotent, there are no difficulties which He cannot overcome, except one. The difficulty God faces, and I repeat, it is the only one, is that He ‘cannot’ help us when our soul is not humble. God ‘feels sad’ because, while He sees His creature suffer, He ‘cannot’ offer any help. Whatever help He offers, it will harm the person because he lacks a humble mindset.”

(Elder Paisios of the Holy Mountain)

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